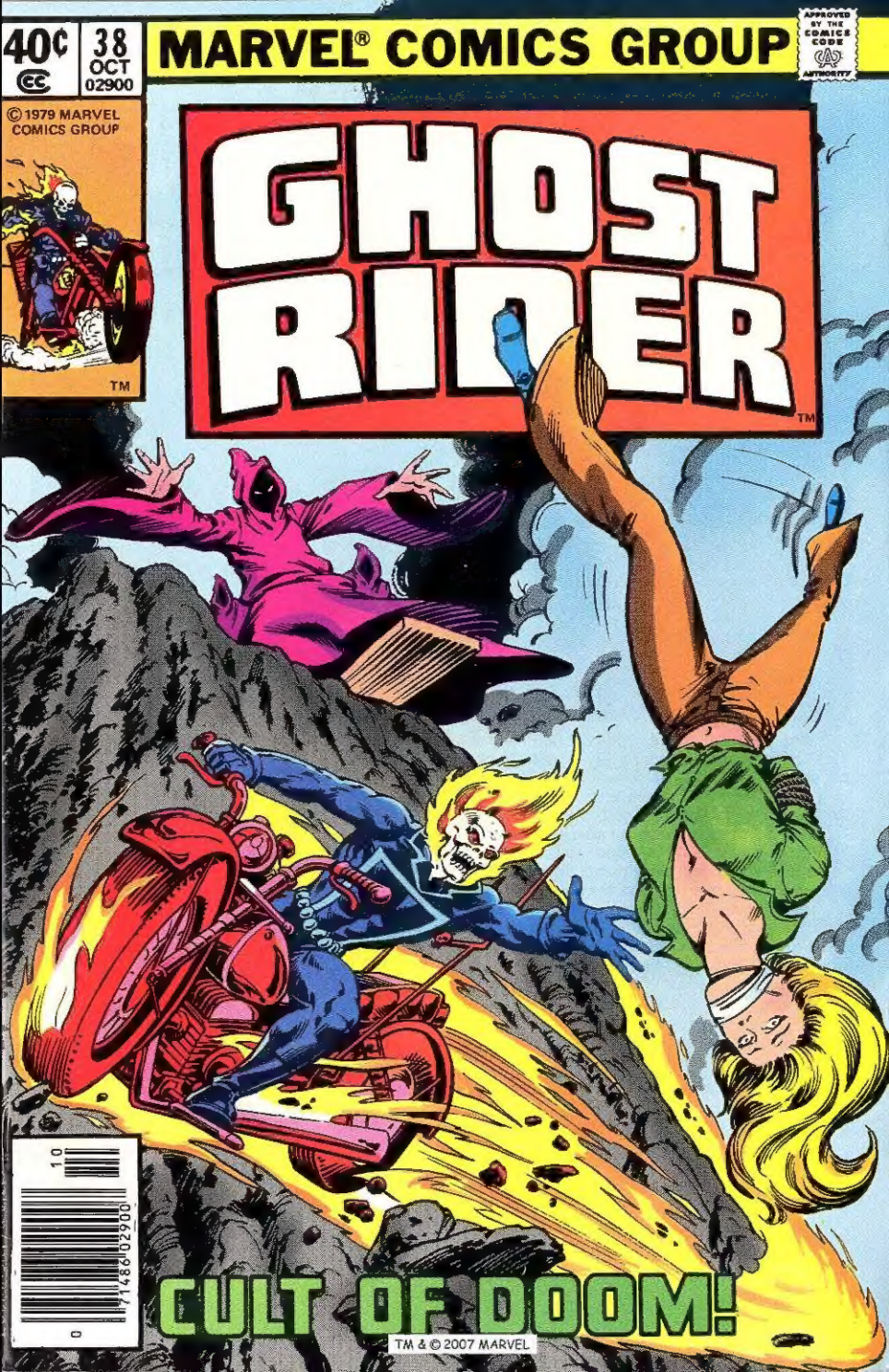
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YET EVEN AS HE BEARS THE GROUND BENEATH HIM WITH ALL THE FURY OF A HELL-SENT WIND, THIS SATANIC BIKER FROM THE NETHERWORLD--KNOWN TO MEN AS THE GHOST RIDER--HAS NO INKLING OF THE FATE THAT YET AWAITS HIM!
THE CULT OF DOOM
MICHAEL FLEISHER SCRIPT
DON PERLIN ART
LETTERS: D.ALBERS COLORS: ROUSSOS
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FOR INDEED, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY... ON A HIGH PROMONTORY, NESTLED AMID A CURTAIN OF TOWERING CLIFFS...
HEAR ME, BROTHERS! HEAR ME, SISTERS! WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS MIDNIGHT HOUR TO DEDICATE OUR BODIES AND OUR SOULS TO THE GREATEST FORCE IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, TO THE GREATEST FORCE A LIVING THING CAN EVER KNOW!
WE ARE HERE TO BOW OUR HEADS IN WORSHIP BEFORE THAT SUPREME FORCE WHICH IS THE GOAL OF ALL LIFE, THE SUPREME MASTER OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD ON THIS EARTH!
AND WHAT FORCE IS THAT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS? LET ME HEAR YOU SAY ITS NAME!
DEATH! WE WORSHIP DEATH!!

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YES, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! WE WORSHIP DEATH! BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD DENY US OUR RIGHT TO WORSHIP!
THERE ARE THOSE, LIKE STATE SENATOR ARTHUR STERLING, WHO WOULD LIKE TO SUFFOCATE OUR GREAT MOVEMENT WITH INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS!
BUT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS KIND OF SACRILEGE! WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS NARROW-MINDED ASSAULT ON OUR DUTIES AND OUR FREEDOMS! TONIGHT WE WILL SEND ARTHUR STERLING A MESSAGE THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IGNORE!
BUT FIRST, TO OPEN TONIGHT'S GREAT GATHERING, I GIVE YOU--
--THE DEATH CEREMONY!
WHO AMONG MY DEATH CYCLISTS VOLUNTEERS TO REDEDICATE HIMSELF TO OUR SACRED CAUSE BY PAYING HIS FINAL HOMAGE TO DEATH TONIGHT?
I VOLUNTEER, O GREAT LEADER!
AND I!
THEN LET THE DEATH RIDE BEGIN!!
AN OMINOUS HUSH FALLS OVER THE MIDNIGHT THRONG AS THE TWO CYCLISTS REV THEIR THROBBING ENGINES AND ROAR TOWARD ONE ANOTHER ACROSS THE PROMONTORY, THEIR FEATURES CONCEALED BENEATH MASKS OF DEATH...
CLOSER AND CLOSER THEY ROAR, AND AS THE NARROW DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM CLOSES, EACH REACHES FOR THE HOSE AND NOZZLE AFFIXED TO THE EQUIPMENT PACK ATOP HIS BACK.

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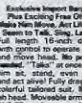

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YES, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL! AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO FULFILL THE REAL PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S MEETING: THE SENDING OF A DRAMATIC MESSAGE TO STATE SENATOR ARTHUR STERLING! AND SO, MY LOYAL DEATH CYCLISTS--
--BRING FORTH THE SENATOR'S DAUGHTER!
SHE IS HERE, O GREAT LEADER!
MMMPF! MMMPF!
NOW, MISS STERLING! YOU HAVE WITNESSED THE GLORIOUS MARTYDOM OF TWO OF MY INVINCIBLE DEATH CYCLISTS! LET US SEE IF YOU CAN FACE THE MAJESTY OF DEATH AS NOBLY AS THEY!
WHATEVER YOUR DEMEANOR IN THE FACE OF DEATH, MISS STERLING, YOUR DEMISE WILL SERVE NOTICE ON YOUR FATHER TO CEASE HIS MISGUIDED INTRUSIONS INTO OUR FREEDOM OF WORSHIP!

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FEAR NOT, MISS STERLING! THE EMBRACE OF ALMIGHTY DEATH IS AS SWEET AS ANY NECTAR OF THE GODS COULD EVER BE!
NOW, DEATH CYCLIST! RIDE!
I OBEY, O GREAT LEADER!
AS THE FEARSOMELY VISAGED CYCLIST SEVERS THE ROPE, YOUNG KAREN STERLING IS SENT PLUMMETING DOWNWARD, DOWNWARD INTO THE ABYSS...
...DOWNWARD... DOWNWARD... TOWARD SEEMINGLY CERTAIN DOOM...
BUT, AT THAT VERY INSTANT...
WHAT? DEATH IS ABOUT TO CLAIM ANOTHER MORTAL! IT MUST NOT BE!
IT HAS BEEN TRULY SAID THAT THE MISSION OF THE GHOST RIDER IS NOT MERCY, BUT VENGEANCE! STILL--

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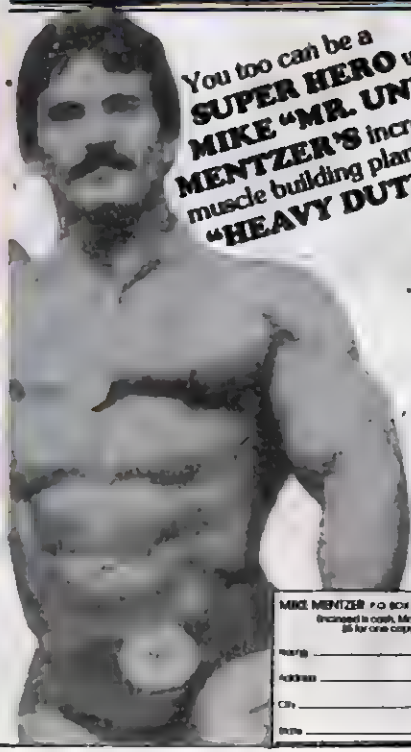

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MMPH?E
FAINTED! BUT FAINTING IS A MILD FATE INDEED, COMPARED TO THAT WHICH THE

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HOWIE! LOOK!
GOOD GRIEF! STOP THE CAR!
THE GIRL'S PARENTS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND RETURNED TO HER OWN HOME AT ONCE!
TYLER
OH WHAT I MEAN WHO?
SEE THAT YOU ARE CARRY OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL COSTS! BE MINDFUL OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEYING A COMMAND FROM--
THE LOWEST BIDDER!
HOWIE! LOOK! ISN'T THIS KAREN STERLING, THE SENATOR'S DAUGHTER?
BY GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT! COME ON! HER HOME'S NOT FAR FROM HERE!

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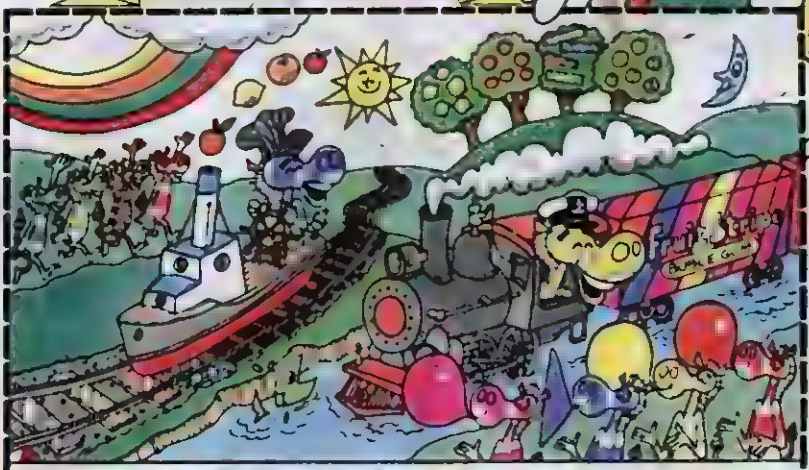

2. No purchase necessary. To enter, print your name, address and zip code on the official entry must include two (2) outside wrappers from either the words "Fruit Stripe Gum means Fruit Stripe Fun"

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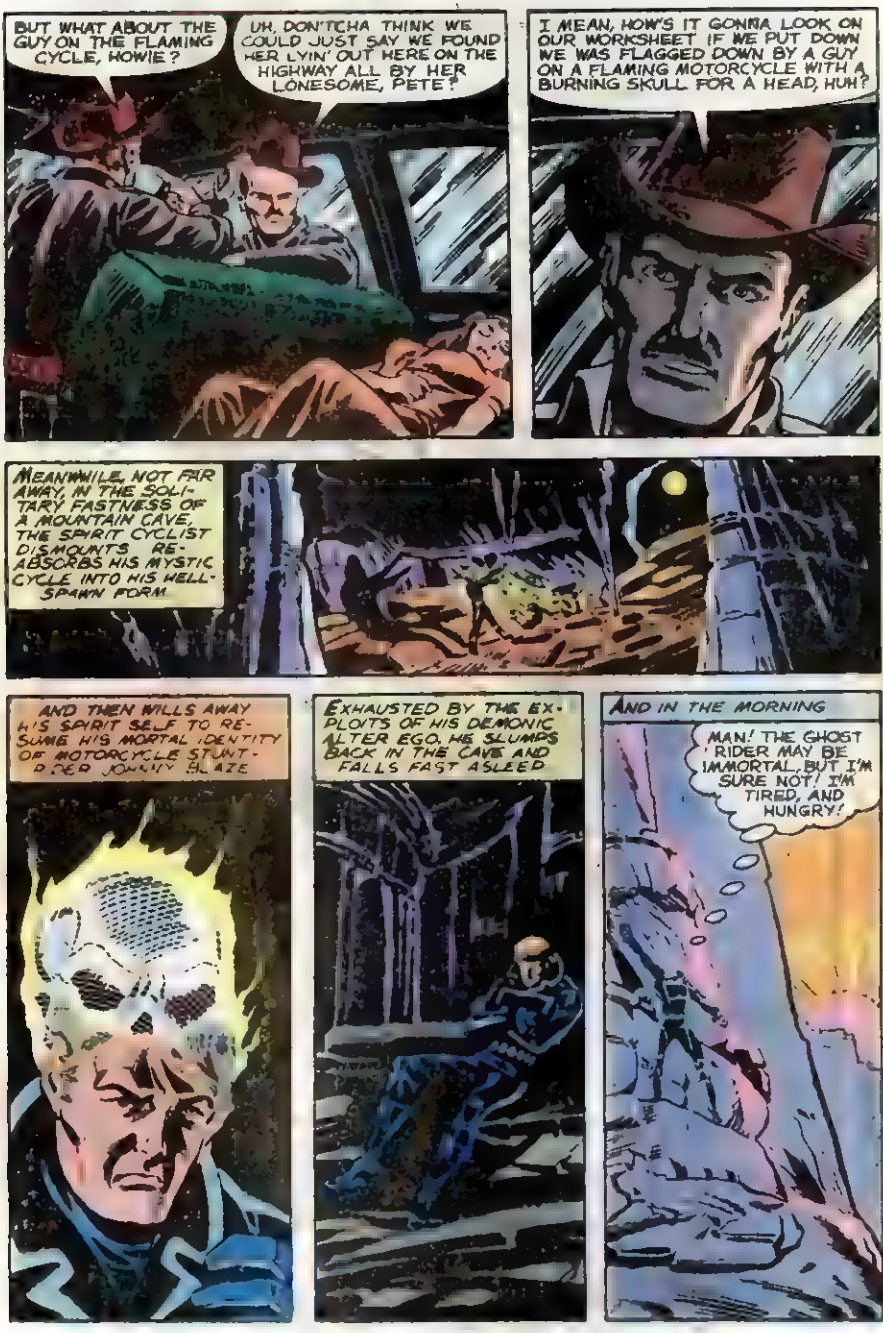
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GUY ON THE FLAMING CYCLE, HOWIE?
UH, DON'TCHA THINK WE COULD JUST SAY WE FOUND HER LYIN' OUT HERE ON THE HIGHWAY ALL BY HER LONESOME, PETE?
I MEAN, HOW'S IT GONNA LOOK ON OUR WORKSHEET IF WE PUT DOWN WE WAS FLAGGED DOWN BY A GUY ON A FLAMING MOTORCYCLE WITH A BURNING SKULL FOR A HEAD, HUH?
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, IN THE SOLITARY FASTNESS OF A MOUNTAIN CAVE, THE SPIRIT CYCLIST DISMOUNTS, RE-ABSORBS HIS MYSTIC CYCLE INTO HIS HELL-SPAWN FORM.
AND THEN WILLS AWAY HIS SPIRIT SELF TO RESUME HIS MORTAL IDENTITY OF MOTORCYCLE STUNTRIDER JOHNNY BLAZE.
EXHAUSTED BY THE EXPLOITS OF HIS DEMONIC ALTER EGO, HE SLUMPS BACK IN THE CAVE AND FALLS FAST ASLEEP.
AND IN THE MORNING
MAN! THE GHOST RIDER MAY BE IMMORTAL, BUT I'M SURE NOT! I'M TIRED, AND HUNGRY!

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BEING THE GHOST RIDER SUCKS ME DRY SOMEHOW IT'S AS IF THE MORE HE RIDES AROUND DOING HIS VENGEANCE NUMBER--
--THE LESS FREEDOM I HAVE TO LEAD MY OWN LIFE
RIGHT NOW, FOR INSTANCE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE HELL I AM, MUCH LESS--
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT PLACE UP THE ROAD! I'LL ASK DIRECTIONS THERE!
PRESENTLY
HEY, ALL RIGHT! A CYCLE SHOP!
NOT JUST ANY CYCLE SHOP, YOUNGSTER! THIS HERE IS "HARLEY" BAGGS' CYCLE SHOP--
HARLEY BAGGS CYCLE SHOP
--THE BEST DAMNED CYCLE SHOP IN THE WHOLE U.S. OF A!
AN' I'M "HARLEY" BAGGS! IF I CAN'T FIX YOUR CYCLE, THEN YOU BETTER JUST JUNK IT, 'CAUSE IT CAN'T BE FIXED AT ALL!
TAKE THIS PIECE OF JUNK FOR EXAMPLE! NOW THIS HERE IS ONE BUSTED MOTORCYCLE!
AIN'T NO ONE EVER GONNA--
RINGGGGG
BAGGS
AW, THAT BLASTED PHONE BE RIGHT BACK, YOUNGSTER!

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SAY YOU DON'T MIND IF I TINKER WITH IT WHILE YOU'RE GONE, DO YOU?
NAW, KID! GO AHEAD! HELP YOURSELF!
VRROOM
MOMENTS LATER
GEE, I MEAN, ARE YOU SURE, HARLEY? I MEAN, I REALLY LOVE THAT BIKE, MAN!
I'M AFRAID SO, FREDDIE. I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I KNOW, BUT IT'S USELESS!
THAT OLD BMW OF YOURS IS REALLY BUSTED, FREDDIE! I MEAN--
HUH?
WHATTA YA MEAN, HUH?
CALL YOU BACK LATER, FREDDIE. IT MAY BE I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIX THAT OLD HUNK FOR YOU AFTER ALL!
I BEEN WORKIN' ON THAT HOG FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS, KID! AND NOW YOU'VE GONE AND GOT HER PURRING LIKE A KITTEN IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES!
YEP! GUESS I HAVE!
WELL, I'M NOT LETTIN' ANYBODY WHO'S GOT A WAY WITH BIKES LIKE YOU DO, OUT OF MY SIGHT!
FIRST I'LL THROW US TO GETHER SOME BREAKFAST, AND THEN I'M GIVING YOU A JOB! WHATTAYA SAY, UH--?
JOHNNY JUST JOHNNY!
AND I'D SAY YOU'VE GOT A DEAL!

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THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON
I'LL BE DONE WITH THIS ONE PRETTY SOON, HARLEY.
THAT'S OKAY, JOHNNY! WE'RE GONNA KNOCK OFF EARLY TODAY ANYWAY SO WE CAN ATTEND THE BIG CYCLE RALLY OUT IN THE DESERT!
IT'LL BE LOTSA FUN FOR YA! ALL THE LOCAL CLUBS'LL BE OUT! AND YOU CAN RIDE THERE WITH ME ON THAT HARLEY I FIXED UP FOR YA, OKAY?
SOUNDS GREAT TO ME, HARLEY! THANKS!
SOON
HERE YOU GO, JOHNNY! PIN ON THIS NUMBER! I'VE ENTERED YOU IN AN OBSTACLE RUN!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, HARLEY! I TOLD YOU I ONLY WANT TO WATCH!
AW, C'MON, JOHNNY! HAVE A LITTLE FUN! BESIDES, IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE IF YOU CAN RIDE 'EM AS GOOD AS YOU FIX 'EM!
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CONTINUED

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Ever since the dawn of bubble gum, man has engaged in gumfighting. Put simply, gumfighting is head to head—face to face—nose to nose—bubble to bubble—where the biggest bubble takes all. Sound simple? Not so fast. Even top gumfighters have ended up in some pretty sticky situations.

Early 19th century gumfighters.

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ALL BUBBLE GUMS ARE NOT ALIKE.

The kid on the left is blowing bubbles with another gum. The kid on the right is blowing bubbles with new Hubba Bubba. Note the size of that Hubba Bubba bubble.

As you see, a sticky situation is developing on the left. But not on the right.

Notice the Hubba Bubba bubble comes right off the face and goes back in the mouth. As for the bubble gum on the left, those are the breaks.

To be sure you're getting the genuine article (Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavors), study the picture below very carefully. Then repeat: Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba.

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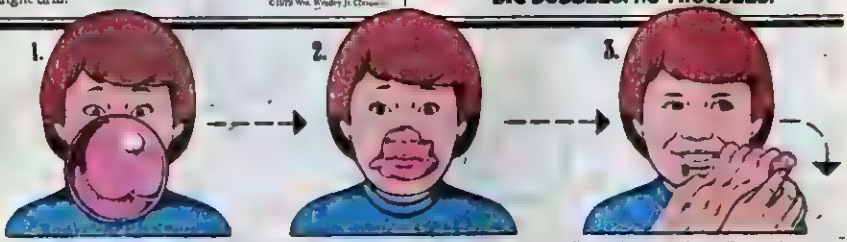

Begin blowing bubble. You will note that Hubba Bubba's amazing formula lets you blow an incredibly large bubble.

When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do *not* be alarmed. Hubba Bubba is not your ordinary bubble gum.

Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1.

After you have mastered this basic gumfighting technique, try it out on someone. Remember for a successful gumfight, be sure your opponent is *not* chewing Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum—the soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.

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GHOST WRITERS!

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Ghost Riders,

This magazine never ceases to amaze me! It is one of the few books around that can nail home a point in one issue better than most can in many (some of the other exceptions being DOCTOR STRANGE and MASTER OF KUNG FU). Take GHOST RIDER #36 for example.

As this series progresses with Johnny's nomadic tour of the United States, the differences between Johnny and his alter ego are becoming more and more pronounced. Johnny can control the transformation, but he maintains little control over the Ghost Rider's actions. As a matter of fact, he's usually pulled out of his vengeance-missions by a human, pleading for decency. Just once, I would like to see GR in the throes of anger, about to tear into someone without anyone else around. Could Johnny's conscience pull him out by itself? An intriguing thought, to say the least! This just goes to prove that Ghost Rider and Johnny Blaze are no longer as interchangeable as they once were. And I like that very much.

Before I leave, mark down my vote to make GHOST RIDER monthly.

Kevin Gibley
2 Rosewood Circle
Malvern, PA 19355

You're far from alone in that balloting, Kevin. Every day seems to bring more and more missives from faithful demon-lovers who want to see Mr. Blaze's fiery-skulled visage on the stands every thirty days. And frankly, there's a fairly good chance of just such a thing happening. . .if we can count on your continued support. So, spread the word! Tell all your friends and neighbors about GHOST RIDER. If you have trouble finding GR—or any other Marvel masterworks—at your local store, drop a letter to Mr. Ed Shukin in care of this address. And, of course, you can always subscribe.

Who knows. . .with your help, we might just make 1980 the Year of the Ghost Rider!

Dear Mike and Don,

Michael Fleisher, in his first GHOST RIDER, looks impressive. This is the first time I've seen Mike's work, and he seems to have caught the spirit, so to speak, of the Ghost Rider and his personality—a vengeful demon, gaining more and more control over the persona of Johnny Blaze with every transformation. And he is—where Blaze was hesitant to bring out his fiery alter ego just a few issues ago, he now seems to have little regret for his actions at the beginning of the issue. His main thought upon reverting to mortal form was that he was hungry, and—to make a further contrast to the Bruce Banner Hulk situation—Johnny knew exactly what he'd done. Later, in human form at the bar, Johnny was glad when that creep started trouble. I wouldn't be surprised if the Ghost Rider was starting to have a subtle influence over Johnny's human behavior.

Don Perlin continues to handle the book like the pro he is. Keep up the good work, guys.

Matt Kaufman
303 West Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

Is the Ghost Rider starting to influence Johnny Blaze? Perhaps. And maybe... just maybe... it's Johnny who's influencing the Ghost Rider.

Think about it.

Dear Bullpen,

GHOST RIDER is easily as good as any book you publish (with the possible exception of the exemplary X-MEN). I have been following GR regularly since his earliest appearances, and have every issue since #12. I can honestly say that GHOST RIDER has never been better than it is right now.

The primary reason is the one-man pencil & ink team of Don Perlin. Don's art combines the early Ploog/Sutton school with the more superheroic work of Mooney to give the strip a fantastic mood. Perlin's embellishment of his pencils makes the difference between acceptable and excellent, so have Don continue inking at all costs.

Michael Fleisher turned in a fine script on his first GR outing. Although he's adding to Johnny's personality a bit abruptly, it all seems so natural for the character that I can't complain. This strip could be ruined by an over-reliance on costumed super villains, but Fleisher and Stern - like McKenzie—realize this and avoid the conventional.

Although I know that you want to keep Johnny on the road (which is probably a good idea), you will have to feature genuine characters in your stories, as you have done in issues like #33, #34, and #36. Like MAN-THING, this could be a strip that relies more on well-portrayed, one-shot characters than on a supporting cast. I think that Michael Fleisher is easily equipped to handle this.

As for monthly status, if you can do it and provide the same quality that we've come to expect in this book over the past year. . . do it.

Alan R. Ekblaw
311 East Armory
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Writers,

I have always thought of this book as being mediocre. Sorry, but that's my opinion, guys. Oh, GHOST RIDER has had its bright spots: the origin story, the Delazny Studio stories, the DAREDEVIL crossover that John Byrne drew, and Roger McKenzie's recent work. Then GHOST RIDER #36 came out.

You guys blew me away. Really.

Like I said, this book never really impressed me much. The stories always seemed contrived, the conflicts too easily resolved (there's just no way a man possessed by a demon could live happily ever after), and the art punched through the wringer before printing. Then GHOST RIDER #36 came out.

Michael Fleisher and Don Perlin did a great job. Really.

Drama and pathos always had to take a second place to action and Satanic pyrotechnics, producing feelings of confused amusement, rather than the rush of high adventure. . .not to mention the absent chill of terror a character like the Ghost Rider has to evoke in order to be believed. In other words, this book never scared me much. Then GHOST RIDER #36 came out.

I haven't slept very well since. Really.

Thanks, guys.

James Jacob Gpo.sby, Jr
106 Bailey Street
North Charleston, SC 29406

Dear Stan,

Just who is this Beppe Sabatini?

Todd Hines
1217 32nd Street
Des Moines, IA

Beats us, Todd.

And on that rather obscure note, we'd like to invite you all back here in just sixty days for GHOST RIDER #38. Arooba!

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AND SO...
...GO!
I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO RACE OUT HERE TODAY, IT'S NOT REALLY FAIR. I'M A PROFESSIONAL RIDER... THESE OTHER PEOPLE ARE ONLY AMATEURS!
VR ROOOM
OR ARE THEY? THAT NUMBER 7 WHOEVER HE IS RIDES A PRETTY MEAN MOTORCYCLE!
GRANTED, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY A PROFESSIONAL STUNT-BIKE I'M RIDING--BUT I'M GIVING IT ALL I'VE GOT, AND HE'S STILL MANAGED TO OPEN HIMSELF UP A PRETTY GOOD LEAD!
WITHIN MOMENTS, BLAZE AND HIS RIVAL HAVE LEFT THE OTHER BIKERS FAR BEHIND THEM. THEN, SUDDENLY, AS JOHNNY ROUNDS A BEND IN THE TRAIL
WHA--? OUTLAW CYCLISTS OF SOME KIND IN GARISH MASKS ROUGHING UP MY OBSTACLE COURSE, BUDDY?

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WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--
--BUT I KNOW A BUSHWA IN WHEN I SEE ONE!
HEY! ULALY!
HUH?
WHNK
HEAL THAT POSE!
C'MON, WE'RE NOT PREPARED FOR THIS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHOK
THEY'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT! I COULD CHANGE TO THE GHOST RIDER AND RUN THEM INTO THE GROUND EASY--
--BUT THIS FELLA MAY BE BADLY HURT! I'D BETTER ATTEND TO HIM FIRST!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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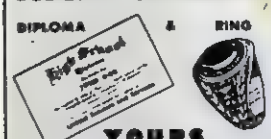

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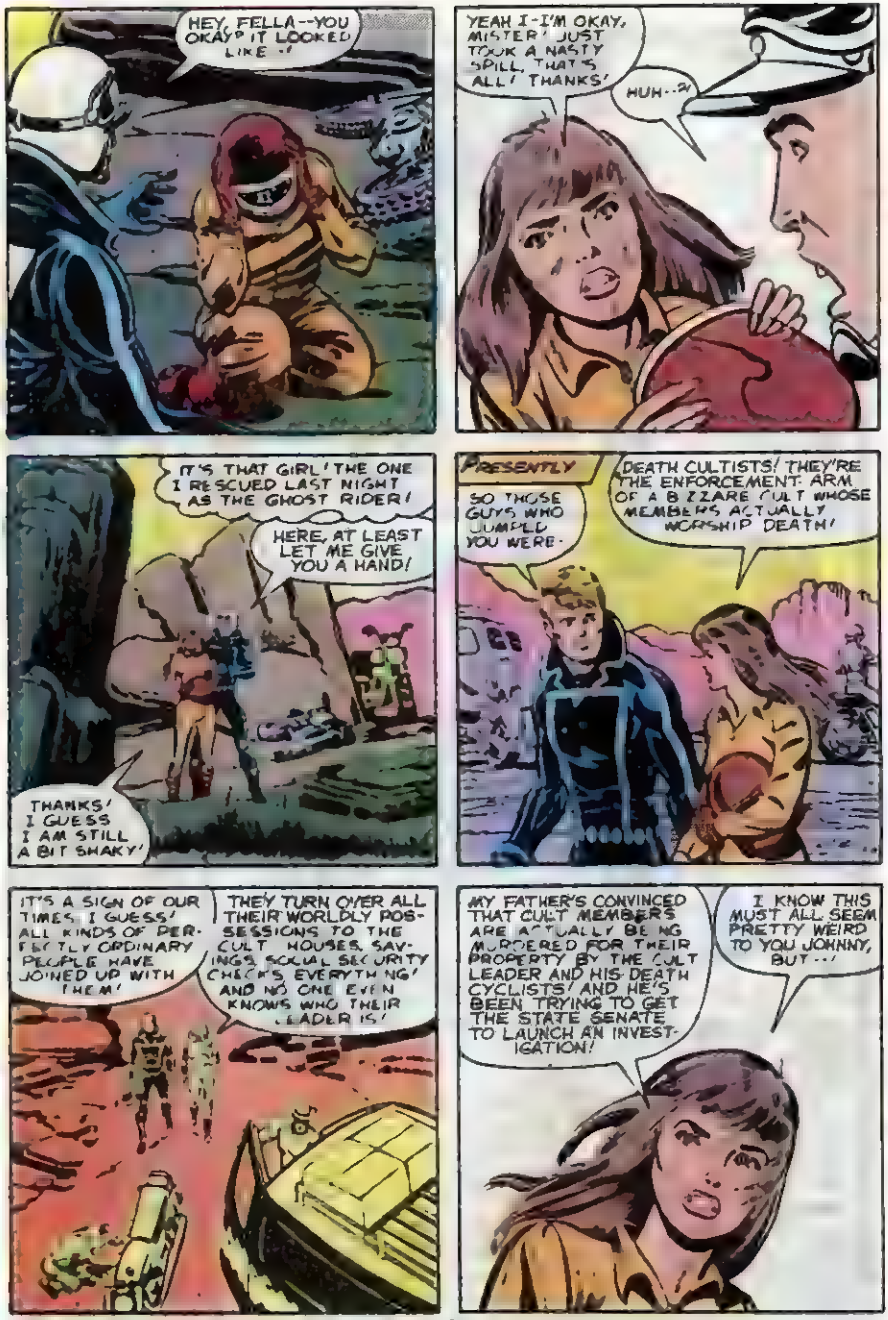
HEY, FELLA--YOU OKAY? IT LOOKED LIKE--!
YEAH I-I'M OKAY, MISTER! JUST TOOK A NASTY SPILL, THAT'S ALL! THANKS!
HUH--?!
IT'S THAT GIRL! THE ONE I RESCUED LAST NIGHT AS THE GHOST RIDER!
HERE, AT LEAST LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND!
THANKS! I GUESS I AM STILL A BIT SHAKY!
PRESENTLY
SO THOSE GUYS WHO JUMPED YOU WERE-
DEATH CULTISTS! THEY'RE THE ENFORCEMENT ARM OF A BIZZARE CULT WHOSE MEMBERS ACTUALLY WORSHIP DEATH!
IT'S A SIGN OF OUR TIMES, I GUESS! ALL KINDS OF PERFECTLY ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVE JOINED UP WITH THEM!
THEY TURN OVER ALL THEIR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS TO THE CULT HOUSES, SAVINGS, SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS, EVERYTHING! AND NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHO THEIR LEADER IS!
MY FATHER'S CONVINCED THAT CULT MEMBERS ARE ACTUALLY BEING MURDERED FOR THEIR PROPERTY BY THE CULT LEADER AND HIS DEATH CYCLISTS! AND HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET THE STATE SENATE TO LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION!
I KNOW THIS MUST ALL SEEM PRETTY WEIRD TO YOU JOHNNY, BUT--!

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KAREN, ALMOST NOTHING SEEMS WEIRD TO ME ANYMORE!
WELL... YOU KNOW, YOU PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE BACK THERE I JUST WISH...
IF YOU WISH HARD ENOUGH FOR SOMETHING, YOU CAN MAKE IT COME TRUE
THAT NIGHT
ALL RIGHT, BAGGS--WHERE IS HE?
WH-WHERE'S WHO?
YOU KNOW WHO WE MEAN, BAGGS- THAT CYCLE BUM YOU'VE TAKEN UNDER YOUR WING' WE WANT HIM' WHERE IS HE?
B-BUT I DON'T KNOW!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THE RALLY THIS AFTERNOON! HE'S PROBABLY IN TOWN OR SOMETHING
ALL RIGHT, BAGGS WE GAVE YOU YOUR CHANCE--

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hoo boy! I've had some tough columns to write in all the years I've been bringing these mellifluous little messages to the ribald ranks of Marveldom Assembled, but I've never had one that was tougher than this! Since I don't really know, how to start, I might as well just take a deep breath and plunge right in.

Remember a couple of issues back when I devoted the entire column to the sensational subject of the great new mag we're about to launch? Remember how I told you it'll be the biggest and boldest thing since Thor's new hair net? And now, here comes the heartbreaking part! Remember when I told you the title would be ODYSSEY? You do remember? Gulp— I was afraid of that!

Okay, you've probably guessed the rest. After me ramming that title down your trusting little throats, we find we've gotta change it! Only to mixed-up Marvel could a calamity like this happen! We can't use the name— someone else in another part of the country has a mag with the same name. So we've had to come up with a new one. It'll be the same pandemonious publication, the same magnificent magazine, the same super sensational collection of brain-blasting strips, dynamite illustrations, and cataclysmic concepts! Only the name has been changed. So, here we go again. Disregard the previous message. Erase the other name from your bionic memory bank. Clear your cerebral circuits and reactivate all remembrance functions. Ready? Okay. The new name of the greatest magazine we've ever created— which will go on sale in the very near future— the magazine which every fantasy fan, every comicbook fan, every fan of science-fiction, sword-and-sorcery, mysticism, magic, adventure, super spectacle, and high tension non-stop sheer excitement is waiting for is— hang onto your ear-muffs, eager ones— EPIC! That's it; you heard us right! EPIC! It's short, stark, and to the point! EPIC! Thou must not, thou dare not, thou shalt not forget— EPIC! The magazine that will make every other publication (except ours, of course) seem weak, and wan, and woebegone by comparison!

Well, I'm not gonna labor the point. If you don't remember it by now, don't worry. Everyone will soon be talking about it, so you'll be reminded easily enough. EPIC! Wowee, what a title! It can't possibly miss— after all, when you spell it backwards it comes out CIPE! (I know I shouldn't have said that!) You can bet some smartguy is gonna walk up to the newsstand and ask for a copy of CIPE! So forget it! Wipe it out! It's EPIC, hear? It rhymes with wepic, which— like most of what I say— doesn't mean a thing!!

Next ish I'll clue you in to some of the frankly fantastic features you'll find in EPIC. Hey, I just thought— won't EPIC look great on a t-shirt? We'll start designing one right away! So save your pennies, Pilgrim— the Age of EPIC will soon be upon us, and we don't wantcha to miss a single part of the EPIC celebration!

So, till next time, don't let a minute go to waste. Make a list of all the words you can find that rhyme with EPIC—. we'll give a free subscription to the nut who comes up with the most! Just send 'em to THE EPIC EPIDEMIC, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 575 Madison Ave., N Y C N Y 10022

And now, I've got to leave you and race back to the EPIC office. Shooter and Marschall are helping to design the contents page, and I heard a rumor that they're trying to letter their names bigger than mine!

Yours till Perry White becomes our newest editor!

EPICelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Looks like it's Marvel's month to take it on the chin! Would you believe that *besides* having a super snafu over the name of ODYSSEY, oops, EPIC, that we managed to foul up on the printing date of our sensational new FUN AND GAMES Magazine? Due to some last minute problems we had to shift around our publishing schedules and the first titanic issue, with all its perplexing puzzles, mazes, and games, didn't hit the stands until last month, instead of in April, as previously stated on this page. How embarrassing! You won't believe this, but it wasn't because we had trouble finishing the funfilled thing. Actually, we had completed the first issue well in advance, but somewhere further down the line, a glitch in the system caused the delay. Sigh! Oh, well. Anyway, rest assured, friends, that if thou venturest forth to thy local newsstand *now*, there shalt thou find FUN AND GAMES #2, bigger and better than ever. Yes, it's chock full of brain-teasing goodies featuring our snazzy super guys and gals (Betcha always wondered what they did on their day off!) and it's only 50¢! So go get it — this time, for sure!

ITEM! We may be confused, but those friendly folks at Pocket Books know just what they're doing it seems. This month they're releasing not one but *two* sensational new novels featuring Marvel heroes! While you're waiting for us to get our act together, why not trot over to your local bookstore and snarl up *Call My Killer . . . Modok!* starring the invincible Iron Man, and *Nightmare* starring Doctor Strange. They're both far-out flights of fantasy-adventure and they're only $1.95 each!

ITEM! More paperback madness! It so happens that this month our esteemed cohorts Grosset & Dunlap, have prepared for your enjoyment the fifth installment in the Conan paperback series! CONAN #5 features the adventures of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian originally appearing in issues 12, 13, and 16 of our Conan magazine. Great stuff! And surprise, guys, the second Battlestar Galactica paperback is here too, featuring stories from issues 4, 5, and 6! Both of these are printed in full color, on sale at bookstores everywhere, and priced to sell!

ITEM! "Hey," said our Assistant Editor Inpatient Jim Salicrup, looking up from his gruel one lunchtime. The brownish goo drizzled greasily from his shaggy beard. "Hey, why don't we do a comic starring *Alice Cooper!* I hear his latest album, 'From the Inside' is a gas." Recreational Headmaster Shooter simply sneered. "Alice Cooper? Bah! Lunchtime is finished! Back to editorial therapy!" Nurse Flono helped Salicrup into his straightjacket and he limped off, shaking. Shooter continued to sneer, but his imagination was piqued. If only the Marvel Institution *could* get its hands on this "Alice Cooper." A *rock star!* Wouldn't Dr. Lee, the Institutional Director be pleased! Perhaps this [illegible] could be used to [illegible] Cooper into being, committed. Time passed, plans were hatched, machinations were effected and now . . . *it's done!* He's *inside* now, a new face in the Marvel Madhouse! Alice Cooper is *trapped* in MARVEL PREMIERE #50, the grandest, wildest, weirdest, psychotic fantasy of all. Only forty crummy cents, at your newsstand, as usual. Buy it *now* before it gets away!

ITEM! Just a quick word or two about some other hot stuff coming at you this month. AVENGERS #188, for instance, in which Earth's mightiest heroes have to battle a whole new team of villains, not to mention the Soviet Army. MACHINE MAN #11 also introduces a new villain — just one — but he's a doozy! DOCTOR STRANGE #37 ends the career of a major villain in an awesome mystic battle which climaxes the multi-part epic that's been unfolding for these past six issues! The Marvel Age rolls on!

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AAAAiee
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--AND YOU BLEW IT!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?
C'MON, LET'S RIDE! BLAZE'LL TURN UP EVENTUALLY! AND WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO DEFY THE CULT!
HARLEY! MY GOD, NO! NO!!
THEY DID THIS... THE CULT... THOSE DIRTY STINKING SCUM!
THEY WISH TO WORSHIP DEATH, EH? WELL, THEN, THEY SHALL FIND DEATH AT THE HANDS OF--
--THE GHOST RIDER!

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SOON... BOBBIE, LOOK! IT'S SOME GUY IN A SKULL HELMET.. ON A GLOWIN' BIKE! AN' HE'S FOLLOWIN' US!
LOOKIT HIM FLY! I NEVER SAW A MOTORCYCLE MOVE THAT FAST!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! SKULL HELMET OR NO SKULL HELMET, WE'LL BE READY FOR HIM!
WITHIN SECONDS I SHALL BE UPON THEM! THEN SHALL THEY TASTE MY FURY!
SURPRISE, SKULL-FACE!
WHAT?!
FOUR FLAMETHROWERS STRIKE OUT AS ONE--THEIR COMBINED FIRE POWER IS AS NOTHING TO THE BRIMSTONE BIKER--
--BUT THE CLIFF-SIDE TRAIL IS ANOTHER MATTER. IT CRUMBLES UNDER THE BARRAGE, SENDING THE GHOST RIDER TUMBLING OUT INTO SPACE...
...FALLING FROM A HEIGHT WHICH EVEN HE CANNOT SURVIVE!
NEXT ABYSS OF DEATH!

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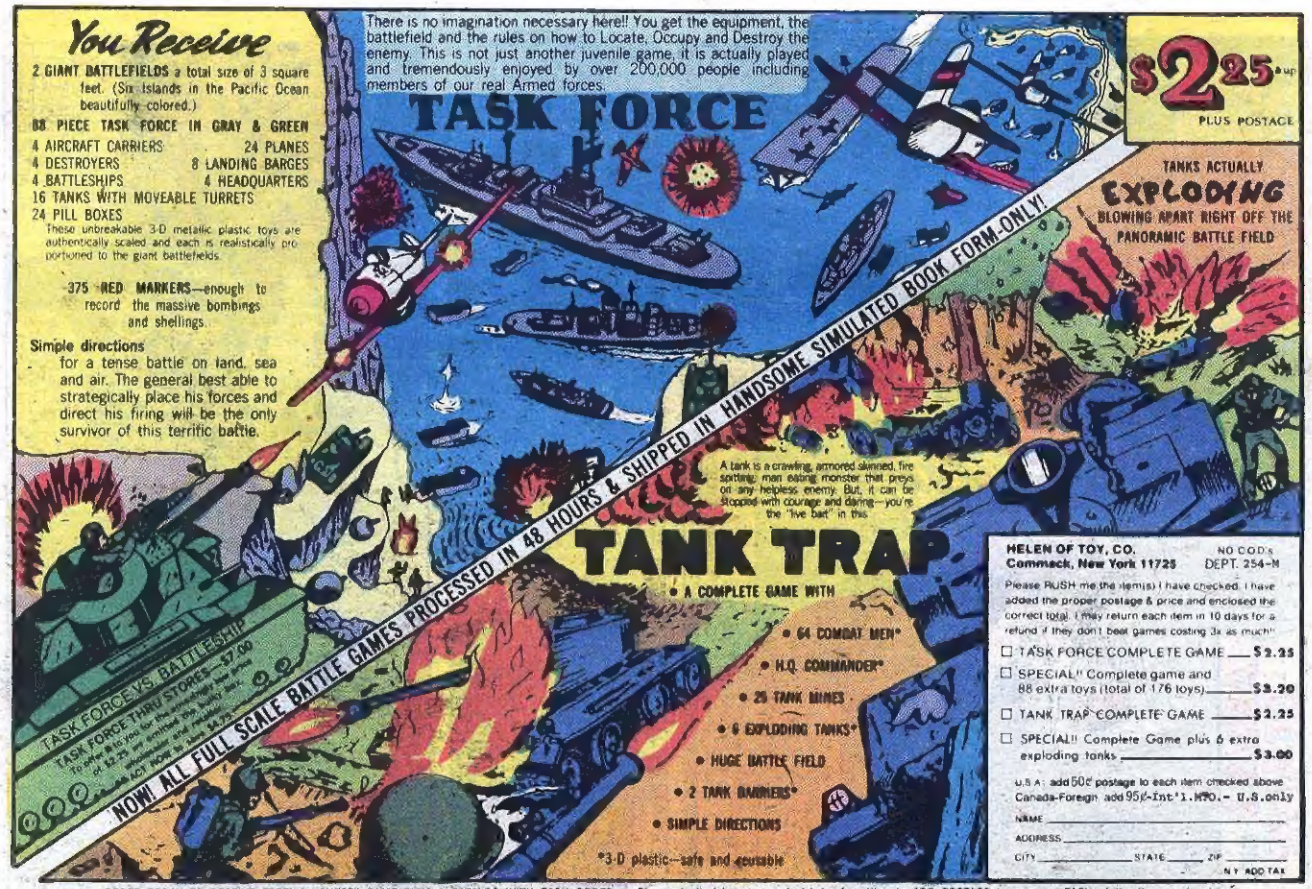
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